



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
March 27, 2013

For More Information, Contact:  
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### **Skunk Found in South Bismarck Tests Positive for Rabies** *Health Officials Concerned that Children May Have Been in Contact with the Rabid Skunk*

Bismarck, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is alerting the public that a skunk found near the Bismarck Expressway and Washington Street intersection in south Bismarck has tested positive for rabies. The skunk was picked up by Bismarck Animal Control Officers on March 26, 2013.

People who may have been bitten or otherwise exposed to the saliva of this skunk are asked to call the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.2378 and their health-care provider. One report indicated that there may have been kids attempting to catch the skunk and one child may have been bitten. Parents are urged to talk to their children and ask if their child may have been bitten or had any contact with the skunk. Members of the public who could have been exposed to the skunk should seek medical care.

Rabies is a viral infection that affects mammals, including people. It can be transmitted through bites and saliva exposure to open cuts and wounds or saliva contact with mucous membranes such as the eyes or mouth. The virus causes swelling of the brain and is almost always fatal. Rabies can be prevented by giving people rabies vaccine after exposures.

This is the second rabid skunk found in Bismarck city limits in the past couple of weeks. People should never approach wild animals even if they appear healthy. If you see a wild animal in town, avoid contact with the animal and call local animal control.

For more information, the media may call Alicia Lepp, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2378.

– 30 –

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